

B. Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended) In combination, a necktie and an ornament holder for displaying an ornament below a knot in the necktie, the knot having an upper end, ~~and a lower end, and a front panel,~~ the ornament holder comprising:

a base portion narrower than the upper end of the knot and an upper end wider than the lower end of the knot; ~~whereby~~ the ornament holder inserted ~~is insertable~~ into the knot from the upper end thereof so as to be disposed in front of a free end of the necktie; ~~and~~

the ornament holder further comprising a link portion comprising means for attaching the ornament thereto, the link portion extending downwardly from the base portion so as to be that at least a portion of the link portion is disposed visible below the lower end of the knot, and so that all other portions of the ornament holder are concealed between the front panel of the knot and the free end of the necktie.

Claim 2 (original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the ornament holder comprises two legs extending upwardly from the base and diverging from each other so as to provide an upper end of the holder that is wider than the base thereof.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the ornament holder comprises two legs extending upwardly from the base, each of the legs curved about a horizontal axis lying in a plane of the free end of the necktie.

Claim 4 (original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the ornament holder is formed from a sheet of material and wherein the base of the ornament holder has a width selected to match a width of the lower end of the knot.

Claim 5 (original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the lower end of the knot is wider than the upper end thereof and wherein the knot is one of a four-in-hand, half Windsor, and Windsor knot.

Claim 6(original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the link comprises a rigid arm.

Claim 7(original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the link comprises a chain.

Claim 8(currently amended) A method of displaying an ornament below a knot of a necktie, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing an ornament ~~for attachment at~~ attached to a linking portion of an ornament holder having an upper end wider than a lower end of the knot, the linking portion disposed at a bottom of an the ornament holder having an upper end wider than a lower end of the knot;

b) partially tying the knot so that ~~the a~~ free end of the necktie depends below the knot;

c) inserting the ornament through the knot from an upper end of the knot- thereof so that the ornament depends below the lower end of the knot, so that both the ornament and ornament holder are disposed entirely in front of the free end of the necktie and so that at least a portion of the ornament holder is concealed behind a front panel of the knot; and

d) dressing and setting the knot.

9(original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the lower end of the knot is wider than the upper end thereof and wherein the knot is one of a four-in-hand, half Windsor, and Windsor knot.